

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8393

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR, UV

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE UPPER VOLTA VISITS BRAZIL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. UPPER VOLTA FOREIGN MINISTER ALFRED KABORE PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL FROM OCTOBER 13 TO 15 AT THE INVITATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO SILVEIRA. IN ADDITION TO CONSULTATIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, KABORE PAID COURTESY VISITS ON THE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL, ERNESTO GEISEL, AND ON THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE SUPREME COURT.

2. IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT KABORE SAID THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITIES OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. KABORE TOLD THE PRESS THAT WHILE BRAZIL'S FORMER FOREIGN POLICY OF SUPPORTING THE PORTUGUESE IN AFRICA HAD LEFT SOME SUSPICIONS AMONG THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN NATIONS, THEY NONETHELESS UNDERSTOOD BRAZIL'S PRESENT POLICY, WHICH KABORE SAID COULD BE MORE "DARING".

3. SILVEIRA GAVE A LUNCHEON IN KABORE'S HONOR AT WHICH BOTH

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FOREIGN MINISTERS CONDEMNED VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM REMAINING

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4. COMMENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT KABORE'S VISIT WAS ARRANGED WITH ONLY THREE DAYS PRIOR NOTICE. THEY ADDED THAT NEITHER SIDE WAS PREPARED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. IN THE STATEMENT OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LAST YEAR THE TWO COUNTRIES RECOGNIZED THE SIMILARITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURIDICAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE RIVER BOUNDARIES OF THE UPPER VOLTA AND BRAZIL'S PARANA RIVER BOUNDARY WITH ARGENTINA. THE BRAZILIANS WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT KABORE AND THE OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM WERE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE RE THIS ISSUE. THERE WERE NO CONCRETE AGREEMENTS REACHED ON AGRICULTURAL OR COMMERCIAL COOPERATION. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SPECULATED TO EMBOFF THAT MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF THE UPPER VOLTANS' VISIT, TAKEN WITH KABORE'S PREVIOUS VISIT TO OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON, IS THE OPPORTUNITY IT GIVES GOUV TO AFFIRM ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM FRANCE AND FRENCH AFRICAN COMMUNITY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
CRIMMINS

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